

Labiosa, Rochelle

From: Johnna Sandow - NOAA Federal <johnna.sandow@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 6:05 AM
To: Labiosa, Rochelle
Cc: Josie Thompson; Ritchie Graves - NOAA Federal; Palmer, John; Shaw, Hanh; Johnna.Sandow@noaa.gov
Subject: Snake River Hells Canyon site specific temp criterion

Good morning Rochelle:

We have completed our review of the final BE and will be sending our 30-day letter within the next week. The purpose of this email is to inform EPA of a few areas where NMFS likely will have a different conclusion in the BiOp and to request a few of the references relied upon in the BE that I was unable to readily find on the internet.

1. Action area - NMFS will likely describe the action area differently than what is presented in the BE. As we have discussed previously, the BE contains discrepancies relative to the action area. In Section 2.2., the action area is defined in the reach of the Snake River between the Hells Canyon Dam and the Salmon River confluence. However, the effects analysis (e.g., Section 5.4.4.1 [page 93]) discusses effects below the Salmon River confluence.

2. Coho Salmon EFH - Coho salmon EFH includes the Lower Snake-Asotin 4th-level HUC. Coho have historically used the Snake River as a migration corridor to access the Grande Ronde River. I anticipate our action area will encompass this segment of the Snake River, thus, we will include mention/analysis of coho EFH.

3. Southern Resident killer whale (SRKW) - As we have discussed, NMFS will likely come to a different conclusion regarding the impacts to this species. In addition, it was surprising to see a "NLAA" determination for SRKW designated critical habitat in Table 7.1 of the BE. I noted that a discussion about impacts to SRKW critical habitat was not included in Section 5.4.5. As such, I suspect the "NLAA" determination in Table 7.1 is a typographical error (the footnote regarding designated critical habitat for SRKW is not clear). Will you please clarify whether EPA is making an NLAA or "No Effect" determination for SRKW critical habitat?

4. References: Will you please send me electronic copies of the following:

Jensen, J.O.T., W.E. McLean, W. Damon, and T. Sweeten. 2005. Puntledge River high temperature study: influence of high water temperatures on adult Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Mann, R. and C. Peery. 2005. Effects of water temperature exposure on spawning success and developing gametes of migrating anadromous fish. A report to Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Thanks,

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